



## San Diego County Water Authority

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November 30, 2009

Paul Dabbs

Strategic Water Planning

Statewide Integrated Water Management

California Department of Water Resources

Sent via email: [cwpcor@water.ca.gov](mailto:cwpcor@water.ca.gov)

*Re: Pre-final draft of Chapter 9 (Desalination), Volume 2, 2009 State Water Plan Update*

Mr. Dabbs:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Pre-final draft of Chapter 9 (Desalination), which is found in Volume 2 of the 2009 State Water Plan Update. As you know, desalination is a significant component of the San Diego region's projected future water supply. The San Diego County Water Authority's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (as updated) estimates that desalted seawater will provide approximately 5 percent of the region's water in 2020. The Water Authority is exploring several projects that potentially increase that amount by 2035.

The Water Authority also offers the following comments on the pre-final draft of Chapter 9:

- Page 9-2: In the fourth full paragraph, the combined capacity of the three seawater desalting plants that are listed should be at least 64,400 AFY. We request that you insert a section on the Carlsbad Desalination Project at this point, which should read as follows: "The largest of these projects is the Carlsbad Desalination Project, a 50-MGD facility located adjacent to the Encina Power Plant in Carlsbad. The plant, being developed by Poseidon Resources, is fully permitted and under construction. Water produced by the project is fully subscribed and will be purchased by nine local water agencies in San Diego County."
- Page 9-3: The third bullet point is outdated. We recommend that it be replaced with the following: "Southern California – Five projects were authorized for funding in 2005, but construction has not begun on any of them. These projects, if constructed as planned, will produce about 166,000 AFY. The five projects under consideration are shown below."

#### MEMBER AGENCIES

Carlsbad  
Municipal Water District

City of Del Mar

City of Escondido

City of National City

City of Oceanside

City of Poway

City of San Diego

Fallbrook  
Public Utility District

Helix Water District

Lakeside Water District

Olivenhain  
Municipal Water District

Otay Water District

Padre Dam  
Municipal Water District

Camp Pendleton  
Marine Corps Base

Rainbow  
Municipal Water District

Ramona  
Municipal Water District

Rincon del Diablo  
Municipal Water District

San Dieguito Water District

Santa Fe Irrigation District

South Bay Irrigation District

Vallecitos Water District

Valley Center  
Municipal Water District

Vista Irrigation District

Yuima  
Municipal Water District

#### OTHER REPRESENTATIVE

County of San Diego

*A public agency providing a safe and reliable water supply to the San Diego region*

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- Page 9-3: Please add a fifth bullet point for the Camp Pendleton project, which should read as follows: "The San Diego County Water Authority is evaluating a seawater desalination project with an initial capacity of 50 MGD that would be located near the mouth of the Santa Margarita River in the southwest corner of Camp Pendleton. This project could be expanded in 50-MGD increments to up to 150 MGD. The Water Authority recently completed a detailed feasibility study of the project."
- Page 9-4: The word "seawater" is misspelled in the third sentence of the paragraph below the bullet points. In addition, please add text to this paragraph about the need to desalt recycled water supplies. For example, the City of San Diego's North City Water Reclamation Plant at times must desalt its product water to meet reuse requirements that TDS must be below 1,000 mg/L.
- Page 9-4: In the Seawater row of Table 9-1, the annual capacity of the plants in design and construction should be 64,400 AF. The number of plants planned or projected should be 14 and the annual capacity should be 313,000 AF (which accounts for the Camp Pendleton plant).
- Page 9-5: In the second to the last line on this page, add "and permitting" to the phrase that begins "including environmental."
- Page 9-6: In Figure 1, the estimated cost and percentage of total cost of electrical energy is high. According to the American Membrane Technology Association, electric power typically accounts for about 30 percent of the cost of seawater desalination using reverse osmosis. You may find a copy of the AMTA's fact sheet on Membrane Desalination Power Usage at [http://www.membranes-amta.org/amta\\_media/pdfs/7\\_MembraneDesalinationPowerUsagePutInPerspective.pdf](http://www.membranes-amta.org/amta_media/pdfs/7_MembraneDesalinationPowerUsagePutInPerspective.pdf).

If you have any questions or need more information about the Water Authority's comments, please contact Cesar Lopez, Senior Water Resources Specialist, at 858-522-6745 or [clopez@sdewa.org](mailto:clopez@sdewa.org).

Sincerely,



Ken Weinberg  
Director of Water Resources